GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
QUALITY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the All India Council for Technical Education was held in the month of December 2007;

(b) if so, whether the meeting was organized to consider ways to enhance access, equity, inclusiveness, affordability, relevance and quality of technical education in the country;

(c) if so, the main decisions arrived at in the meeting;

(d) whether the Government is making all possible efforts to take the quality of the technical education to the next higher level and on par with the highest international standards; and

(e) if so, the measures worked out in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (e) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 276 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2008 ASKED BY SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI, M.P. REGARDING QUALITY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(a): Yes, Sir. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had organized a National Conference on Development of Technical Education in India in December, 2007.

(b): These issues were discussed in the said conference.

(c): The conference had no decision making role. However, some of the important suggestions made in the Conference were as follows;

I. Access, Equity and Inclusion

i. Regional and other imbalances should be addressed through relaxations and suitable incentives.

ii. Fee structure should be regulated.

II. Quality Assurance

The National Board of Accreditation should consider institution-wise accreditation also, together with programme-wise accreditation, and should move towards grading system in accreditation.

III. Assessment of Manpower and Skills Requirement including expansion of polytechnics

i . The available infrastructure should be fully utilized by running two shifts. It was also proposed that a scheme for Testing and Certification for workers with skills acquired by non-formal mode, should be introduced.

ii. Polytechnics should consider offering courses in the service sector as per market demand and could have specific programmes in the hospitality sector like tourism, aviation etc.

IV. Academic Reforms − Curriculum Framework, Credit System and Evaluation

A certain common core curriculum should be developed so that it could set up a minimum Bench Mark for adoption by various technical institutions.

V. Faculty Development

Recommendations of Professor P. Rama Rao Committee Report should be implemented.

VI. Industry Institute Interface

The industry should be involved not only in placement activities and student project work but also in the areas of curriculum, faculty development, quality assurance and research activities etc.

VII. Role of AICTE in the Changing Environment and Global Competitiveness

i. AICTE should set up Centers of Excellence and Centers of Advanced Studies.

ii. AICTE should evolve mechanisms to provide exposure to country's technical institutions to the world-class institutions.

iii. AICTE should deal effectively with unauthorized institutions as well as approved institutions running unapproved programmes.

iv. AICTE Act should be reviewed and amended to make it more effective.

(d) & (e): The XI Five Year Plan envisages several steps for improvement in the quality of technical education including the setting up of new institutions like IITs, IIMs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, and Indian Institutes of Information Technology etc., revamping of faculty development programmes, encouraging research, and improvements in curricula, pedagogy, accreditation and evaluation system.